

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 00737 150844Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /057 W
----- 033293

R 150810Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9814

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TH

SUBJECT: ELECTION UPDATE

FOLLOWING RECD FM UDORN SENT ACTION BANGKOK INFO CHIANG MAI
DATED JAN 14, 1975 BEING RPTD FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TH

SUBJECT: ELECTION UPDATE

1. AS THE CAMPAIGN MOVES INTO THE FINAL TWO WEEKS, PAST
JOCKEYING AMONG VARIOUS CANDIDATES HAS TO DATE RESULTED IN
NEGLECTIBLE CHANGE. IN EARLY DECEMBER, THE CONSULATE'S A-09
PROVIDED A ROUGH ESTIMATE OF FRONT RUNNERS AND POTENTIAL
WINNERS. THE CONSULATE'S MOST RECENT A-11 OF JANUARY 14
UPDATES AND REFINES THAT SURVEY AS THE RESULT OF AN ADDITIONAL
MONTHS'S TRAVEL.

2. IN OUR PREVIOUS POLL WE ESTIMATED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT
PARTIES, MAINLY THE BIG FOUR AND PEOPLE'S JUSTICE, WOULD GARNER
70PCT OF THE NORTHEAST'S SEATS. WHILE THOSE SEATS ARE NOW
APPORTIONED DIFFERENTLY WITHIN THAT BLOCK, FOR EXAMPLE THE
SOCIAL JUSTICE PARTY HAS PICKED UP A FEW SEATS AT THE EXPENSE

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 00737 150844Z

OF MINOR FRINGE PARTIES, THE OVERALL PERCENTAGE IS UNCHANGED.

3. INTO THE LAST DAYS, ISSUES CONTINUE TO REMAIN LESS IMPORTANT, TO VOTER AND CANDIDATE ALIKE, THAN MONEY AND PERSONAL LOYALTIES. WHAT WE FIND HARD TO PREDICT IS JUST HOW EFFECTIVE THE RECIPIENTS OF FINANCIAL LARGESSE WILL BE ON ELECTION DAY IN PRODUCING THE PROMISED VOTES. WHILE WE HAVE NO STRONG INDICATIONS THAT THE UNEXPECTED WILL OCCUR, SCATTERED RUMORS KEEP US FROM BEING TOTALLY SANGUINE. NEVERTHELESS, IN MOST CASES THE SHIFT WOULD BE FROM A WEALTHY, BUT CARPETBAGGING, ESTABLISHMENT CANDIDATE TO A POORER, BUT LOCAL, ESTABLISHMENT FIGURE.

4. THE U.S. PRESENCE HAS NOT BEEN AN EFFECTIVE ISSUE. THERE WILL NO DOUBT BE CANDIDATES ELECTED WHO ARE AGAINST THE U.S. PRESENCE, BUT WE HAVE YET TO IDENTIFY THE CANDIDATE WHO WILL BE ELECTED USING U.S. PRESENCE AS AN ISSUE.

5 STUDENTS CONTINUE TO PLAY A SMALL ROLE, THOUGH WHEN QUERRIED, PROTEST THAT THEY ARE SERVING TO EDUCATE VOTERS AND KEEP POLITICIANS CLEAN.

6. IN CONCLUSION, WE FIND NO INDICATION THAT THE CAMPAIGN SUDDENLY WILL RISE TO A FEVER PITCH. RATHER, FROM ALL INDICATIONS, THINGS WILL, WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, WIND QUIETLY DOWN TO A FAIRLY PREDICTIBLE CONCLUSION.

UNQUOTE
KINTNER

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